

“Wise Men Still Seek Him — The Gospel in the Stars, Part 2”

Introduction: High Level Overview of the Signs of the Zodiac

The Twelve Signs and Thirty-Six Constellations Revealed in the Heavens are now our focus (see Bullinger’s Companion Bible, Appendix 12, for this and also his book, “The Witness of the Stars”, published in 1921, which has been republished many times in many editions). As I have emphasized before here, what is critical for our understanding is found in the inspired word of God and not in fallible human creations such as books or other media. We have therefore put the emphasis here on what those scriptures that establish so very much upon which our faith must stand have revealed.

See those references though for many of my comments here and direct quotations are indicated:

- ***Each of the four chapters in each of these three Books consists of three sections; and each section is represented by a Constellation. There are thus thirty-six (3x12) Constellations, which, with the twelve Signs, make forty-eight (4x12) in all.” See again Bullinger’s commentary in the Companion Bible, Appendix 12.***

At the highest possible level, this is what we have there:

- ***“First Book. The Redeemer. (His First coming) The Sufferings of Christ***
- ***Second Book. The Redeemed. (His work and its results) His Fruit is the Glorious Redemption of the People of God***
- ***Third Book. The Redeemer. (His Second Coming) ... The Glory that Shall Follow”***
- ***Bullinger’s summary then looks like this:***
 - ***“First Book. The Redeemer. (His first coming) The Sufferings of Christ***
 - ***VIRGO. The prophecy of the promised seed.***
 - ***LIBRA. The Redeemer's work (grace).***
 - ***SCORPIO. The Redeemer's conflict.***
 - ***SAGITTARIUS. The prophecy fulfilled.***

- ***Second Book. The Redeemed. (His work and its results) His Fruit is the Glorious Redemption of the People of God***
 - ***CAPRICORNUS. The prophecy of deliverance.***
 - ***AQUARIUS. Results of work bestowed.***
 - ***PISCES. Results of work enjoyed.***
 - ***ARIES. The prophesied deliverance fulfilled.***
- ***Third Book. The Redeemer. (His Second Coming) ... The Glory that Shall Follow***
 - ***TAURUS. The prophecy of coming judgment.***
 - ***GEMINI. The Redeemer's reign in glory.***
 - ***CANCER. The Redeemer's position safe.***
 - ***LEO. The prophecy of triumph fulfilled."***
- ***We will now quickly review some of the heavenly revelation since it would not be right to continue with our study of Romans, Dispensationally Considered, without this background and foundation as seen from that highest of levels. This is the entire revelation the Lord God placed there "from the foundation of the world". The designs of the signs are not what is most important however. They were used to aid in the remembrance of the redemptive message itself. For it was the names that conveyed their meaning in the languages of the day where the truth was found, as the references we looked at indicate.***

Revelation 19:10. And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Or, as the apostle John wrote of the same:

[READ] John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

- ***And that message is that the Lord promised a resolution for sin and its consequence and that solution was all about our Lord Jesus Christ, his coming, his work, and his final victory including an emphasis on the redeemed of the elect nation Israel and the elect of the nations, according to prophecy. The Mystery is not the subject***

of this revelation, as we have stated. That was kept secret from the beginning of the world while those living on this earth from the beginning were the focus, not us. That would come much later, after the Lord changed the dispensational plan.

- ***God's Truth Was Declared in the Creation Itself, "From the Beginning"***
 - *The Witness of God In the Stars with All Its Splendor and Truth was revealed from the beginning. This is a message of the redemptive plan of God as given to Israel later which was an addition that was specifically for the Jews, God's chosen out people.*
 - *But for over a period of about 2500 years a message of redemption had been given to the Gentiles so that they as well they might take God at his word and be given a hope beyond any this earth with its many sin-caused miseries could afford.*

The evidences for this are many fold as we saw in our quick review in our last study. There were those historical statements during New Testament times and we looked at several in Luke 1:67-70 (and a parallel in Matthew), and Acts 3:20-21, where the key words were "... since the world began".

- *So we must conclude that there was a revelation given long before the written scriptures were delivered to mankind through Moses, David and the prophets.*
- *So it is clear: there were prophets from the beginning, "since the world began" and "from the foundation of the world". Then we also saw that some of the prophetic messages from God were in effect "heavenly" as well, as Paul writes in Romans 10 quoting from Psalm 19:*

Rom. 10:17-18

17 So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

18 But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

- *The apostle here is drawing an analogy which those in the ancient world could have known a lot more about them then than we do today. For the heavenly witness described in Psalm 19 he quotes here could have been so much better understood then than it is today. He is relying, it seems to me, on an understanding that there*

was a message, a truth, with much meaning as all truth does communicate, regarding the Creator's embedding in the creation itself in the names of the stars and then in the signs that were passed down from generation to generation by those the Lord had singled out for such a great purpose.

This is much like book stores today with Bibles on the shelves, or libraries, or coffee tables ... But the question is about those that see those books or open them and read them. Do they believe what is written, do they take God at his word? Abraham did, as we have seen.

Ps. 19:1-6

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

3 [There is] no speech nor language, [where] their voice is not heard.

4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

5 Which [is] as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, [and] rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

6 His going forth [is] from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

- *This Psalm is wonderful indeed, isn't it? So much is here if we have the eyes and heart to receive it.*

Then, in Romans chapter 1 we saw even more about this heavenly revelation given for all of mankind to know as God's revealed word before the written word was ever delivered for the chosen out ones of Israel:

Rom. 1:17-20

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold [down] the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed [it] unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

- *So here it says that in the gospel is the righteousness of God revealed. Once the perfect sacrifice had been offered up for our sins, and that crucial segment of the great story of redemption was complete, the full revelation of that righteousness had been delivered from Christ risen to Paul. In that he gloried. But as Paul noted here in this verse 17, the righteousness of God had been revealed before “in part” and so here it is referenced as “from faith to faith”.*

It was the accountability of all to a righteous and holy God that had been revealed before in the heavenly testimony. And that is what this part of the letter is addressing now as chapters 2 and 3 unfold how God was working in the hearts of Gentiles (verses 19-20). But some took God at his word, believing, they cleaved to the truth and lived by their faith whatever the consequences. Some were even “taken”, such as Enoch (and Methuselah died), before the flood came during Noah’s fateful days of divine judgment on the human race save eight souls. And then there was Job who exclaimed: “I know my redeemer liveth ...”. Amen.

Now verse 18 mentions “truth”. Truth demands meaning which rests on words of language. A beautiful sunset in itself is not enough. Nor is a view of the night sky or a corn field with harvest near. And in the Ps. 19 reference we see speech and words and language, indeed a “message in the stars”. Does the Bible support this concept elsewhere? We saw that it does in several scriptures that are often quickly passed over. But the verses that mention explicitly the Creator’s naming of these heavenly witnesses are foundational:

Ps. 147:4 He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by [their] names.

Is. 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these [things], that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that [he is] strong in power; not one faileth. [In other words, his revelation in the heavens was “clearly revealed”!]

- *So there is easily sufficient support for our teaching here that the stars and the names of each were given directly by God. That this*

revelation was also given to God's servants is a warranted conclusion surely as otherwise they could have had no value to believers here on this earth.

There are many stars whose original names are still known in their Hebrew or are translations into Arabic. So indeed there was a "meaning" associated with these star names that was given by God himself, as scripture reveals here. Furthermore, if the names associated with those stars have meaning then there is a story told in the heavens as well, at least in outline form, as Paul's letter to the Romans gives witness where he quotes Ps. 19:4 in chapter 10 and verse 18.

Those names had to be passed down through those 2500 years by word of mouth by those chosen by God for that purpose probably starting with Adam himself or at least Abel and Seth.

What a different view of the Zodiac this is, that God revealed himself and his purpose and work there and not a satanically inspired astrological system to foretell a person's future for the day and month.

Romans chapter 1 seems to be all about that and its effect on those who would worship the power behind it, satan himself. Only God's people, the Jews, with the written revelation now given, could, as satan's plan of deception developed, preserve that heavenly and eternal message regarding the Seed of the Woman.

And then there was that special revelation given to Abraham on this day that was such a turning point in his life and perhaps that is the most significant scripture here and one that must never be forgotten:

[READ] Genesis 15:5-6

5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, **So shall thy seed be.**

6 And he believed **[in]** the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

- *The words "tell" and "number" are very significant here. For they are both transitions of the same Hebrew word which according to Strong's Concordance means: "to set before, to set forth, to shew. First occurrence, Genesis 3:11, 'Who told thee that thou wast*

naked.’ Psalm 97:6, ‘The heavens declare His righteousness’; 111:6, ‘He hath shewed his people the power of his works.’”

[READ] Gen. 15:1-4

1 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

2 And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?

3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

4 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir ...

- *Do we now understand better what was happening here with Abraham? The Lord God was asking him to set forth the revelation given in the stars, the message, the witness, the gospel! He knew it for sure but had not fully believed it yet, it seems. **AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY AT THAT MOMENT HE HAD NOT SEEN THE RELEVANCE OF THAT MESSAGE TO HIS OWN PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.** So the connection with a promise of a son is part of this because the promise of the Seed of the Woman required in God’s timing the incarnation and the birth of the Lord God’s Own Son and that required a Woman to miraculously conceive and bear a son. And now Abraham saw for the first time the personal connection with himself and his wife, Sarah! He and his wife Sarah were, he now believed, central to the redemptive purpose of God! Astounding! Abraham had now believed God and he counted it unto him for righteousness. Amen.*
- *Now, as we well know, it is our Lord Jesus Christ, Israel’s Messiah, their promised King and Redeemer, who is “the glory of God”, the premier one through whom God’s nature and works are revealed. So Psalms 19:1 is surely all about that where we read “The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork.”*
- *This is of course also revealed in the New Testament as these two scriptures reveal showing that it is the Seed of the Woman who fulfills the Old Testament prophecies:*

[READ] 2 Corinthians 4:6

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 21:23

And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

- ***And so it was. For about 2500 years before Moses there was indeed a witness by God to man worldwide concerning his plan of redemption. This was all recorded in the heavens through the so-called “Zodiac” BEFORE IT WAS CORRUPTED BY SINFUL MEN AND BY SATANIC PERSUASIONS AND OBJECTIVES. “The word Zodiac means the degrees or steps, which mark the stages of the sun's path through the heavens, corresponding with the twelve months.” — Bullinger’s Companion Bible, Appendix 12.***

Our Outline Today: “Wise Men Still Seek Him — The Gospel in the Stars, Part 2

- ***The Gospel in the Stars — The Message Concerning His Coming***
- ***The Gospel in the Stars — The Message Concerning His Suffering and Its Fruit***
- ***The Gospel in the Stars — The Message Concerning His Victory***

I. The Gospel in the Stars — The Message Concerning His Coming:

EACH “BOOK” OF THE STARRY REVELATION (AND THERE ARE THREE AS OUR OUTLINE TODAY SHOWS, CONCERNING THE SEED OF THE WOMAN AND HIS COMING (HIS FIRST COMING, THAT IS), HIS SUFFERINGS FOR THE SAKE OF HIS REDEEMED, AND THEN HIS VICTORY AT HIS SECOND COMING.

EACH “BOOK” OF THE THREE HAS FOUR SIGNS SO TWELVE IN ALL, THE TWELVE SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC. EACH SIGN HAS THREE CONSTELLATIONS WITHIN IT WITH THE STARS OF EACH HAVING THE NAMES THE LORD GOD GAVE AT THE BEGINNING. THE STARS HAVING WERE PLACED AT THE CREATION ITSELF, AND THEN THE NAMES GIVEN TO GOD’S SERVANTS (ADAM, ABEL, SETH, ENOCH, JOB, NOAH, ETC.) AFTER ADAM’S FALL.

WE REVIEWED THE FIRST SIGN, VIRGO, IN THE FIRST BOOK LAST TIME AND ESPECIALLY THE FIRST CONSTELLATION, COMA.

- ***“First Book. The Redeemer. (His first coming) The Sufferings of Christ***
 - ***VIRGO. The prophecy of the promised seed.***
 - ***LIBRA. The Redeemer's work (grace).***
 - ***SCORPIO. The Redeemer's conflict.***
 - ***SAGITTARIUS. The prophecy fulfilled.”***
- ***“The First Sign: Virgo (the Virgin) - This is the starting point just as it is in Genesis 3:15. Here we have the star Al Zimach. Heb. Zemach, the branch. All the other stars have cognate meanings.” – Bullinger.***

And, as we should know already, there are several (in fact four) prophetic references in the Old Testament concerning “the branch”, a clear reference therefore to our Lord Jesus, Israel’s Messiah and Redeemer. Those are:

Is. 4:2 In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth [shall be] excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

Jer. 23:5-6* Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this [is] his name whereby he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*

Zech. 3:8 Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they [are] men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.

Zech. 6:12 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name [is] The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:

- ***And so we see that the written and verbal revelation given to Israel emphasized the branch image very much as well. But now what constellations with what stars are in this sign? We looked at just one of the three last time, Coma:***
- ***The First Constellation in Virgo, COMA - The Desired One:***

Hag. 2:7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

Num 24:17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth. **[THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM!!]**

- ***Last time we reviewed the names of many of the stars in this sign of Virgo. We stopped when I mentioned the Star of Bethlehem, you will remember. So let's start there now as we finish our comments on the first sign and its meaning through the names of the stars found within it:***

Bullinger: "Here is the commencement of all prophecy in Genesis 3:15, spoken to the serpent: 'I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.'

This is the prophetic announcement which the revelation, both in the heavens and in the Book is designed to unfold and develop. It lies at the root of all the ancient traditions and mythologies, which are simply the perversion and corruption of primitive truth.

VIRGO is represented as a woman with a branch in her right hand, and some ears of corn in her left hand. Thus giving a two-fold testimony of the Coming One.

The name of this sign in the Hebrew is Bethulah, which means a virgin, and in the Arabic a branch. The two words are connected, as in Latin--Virgo, which means a virgin; and virga, which means a branch (Vulg. Isa 11:1). Another name is Sunbul, Arabic, an ear of corn.

In Genesis 3:15 she is presented only as a woman; but in later prophecies her nationality is defined as being of the stock of Israel, the seed of Abraham, the line of David; and, further, she is to be a virgin. There are two prominent prophecies of her and her seed: one is connected with the first coming in incarnation, Isaiah 7:14 (quoted in Matthew 1:23).

**'Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
And shall call his name Immanuel.'**

The other is connected with His second coming, leaping over the sufferings and this present interval of His rejection, and looking forward to His coming in glory and judgment, Isaiah 9:6, 7 (quoted in Luke 2:11 and 1 :32, 33).

**‘For unto us a child is born,
Unto us a son is given; ’**

Virgo contains 110 stars, viz., one of the 1st magnitude, six of the 3rd, ten of the 4th, etc.

ARATUS thus sings of them:

"Beneath Bootes feet the Virgin seek,
Who carries in her hand a glittering spike.
Over her shoulder there revolves a star
In the right wing, superlatively bright;
It rolls beneath the tail, and may compare
With the bright stars that deck the Greater Bear.
Upon her sholder one bright star is borne,
One clasps the circling girdle of her loins,
One at her bending knee; and in her hand
Glitters that bright and golden Ear of Corn.

The constellation itself is very remarkable. Others contain one or two stars of the first or second magnitude, and then a greater or less variety of lesser stars; but this is peculiar from having not one very bright star, but contains so many stars of the 4th and 5th magnitudes. It contains 43 stars altogether, ten being of the 4th magnitude, and the remainder of the 5th, 6th, etc.

It was in all probability the constellation of Coma in which "the Star of Bethlehem" appeared. There was a traditional prophecy, well-known in the East, carefully preserved and handed down, that a new star would appear in this sign when He whom it foretold should be born.

This was, doubtless, referred to in the prophecy of Balaam, which would thus receive a double fulfilment, first of the literal "Star," and also of the person to whom it referred. The Lord said by Balaam (Num 24:17),

**‘There shall come * a star out of Jacob,
And a sceptre shall rise out of Israel.’”**

...

- ***THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM should not be ignored even though today we do not know enough about this to comment much, although ancients did beginning with Ignatius, bishop of Antioch in AD 69.***

Bullinger: "One step more places this new star in the constellation of COMA, and with new force makes it indeed 'His star'--the 'Sign' of His 'coming forth from Bethlehem.' will it be 'the sign of the Son of Man in heaven' (Matt 24:30) when He shall 'come unto' this world again to complete the wondrous prophecies written of Him in the heavenly and earthly Revelations?

Thus does the constellation of COMA reveal that the coming 'Seed of the woman' was to be a child born, a son given.

But He was to be more: He was to be God and man--two natures in one person! This is the lesson of the next picture.

2. CENTAURUS (The Centaur)...". For in this constellation the stars reveal the coming one, the branch, the seed of the woman, to be both God and man in one person. The ancient name of this constellation is "The Despised" and in both Hebrew and Arabic it is exactly the same word, interestingly.

And, accordingly, we have in the prophetic record, this:

[READ] Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Another name for the constellation was in Hebrew, *Asmeath*, which means a *sin-offering* (as in Isa. liii. 10).

The Greek name was *Cheiron*, which means *the pierced* ...

...

This is the conclusion of the *first chapter* of this First Book. Here we see the woman whose Seed is to bruise the serpent's head, the Virgin-Born, the Branch of Jehovah, perfect man and perfect God,

Immanuel, “God with us,” yet despised and rejected of men, and yielding up His life that others may have life for evermore. But we see Him coming afterwards in triumphant power to judge the earth. This is only one chapter of this First Book, but it contains the *outline* of the whole volume, complete in itself, so far as it regards the Person of the Coming One. Like the Book of Genesis, it is the seed-plot which contains the whole, all the rest being merely the development of the many grand details which are included and shut up within it. It is only one chapter out of twelve, but it distinctly foreshadows the end—even “the sufferings of Christ and the glory which should follow.”

- *So the Seed of the Woman is brought forth as the God-Man and suffers for us all to bring us eternal redemption. Amen and amen!*

ENOUGH ON THE FIRST “BOOK” WHICH GIVES IN ITS FOUR SIGNS THE WHOLE PLAN OF REDEMPTION IN A “NUTSHELL”:

- *VIRGO. The prophecy of the promised seed.*
- *LIBRA. The Redeemer's work (grace).*
- *SCORPIO. The Redeemer's conflict.*
- *SAGITTARIUS. The prophecy fulfilled.*

II. The Gospel in the Stars — The Message Concerning His Suffering and Its Fruit:

- *Second Book. The Redeemed. (His work and its results) His Fruit is the Glorious Redemption of the People of God*
 - *CAPRICORNUS. The prophecy of deliverance.*
 - *AQUARIUS. Results of work bestowed.*
 - *PISCES. Results of work enjoyed.*
 - *ARIES. The prophesied deliverance fulfilled.*

Bullinger: “Hence in Capricornus we must look for the *prophecy* of this Coming Sacrifice. As a matter of fact it did actually point out the time when the Sun of Righteousness should arise, and “the Light of the World” appear. For when this Promised Seed was born the Sun was *actually in this sign of Capricornus!* “The fulness of time was come,” and “God sent forth His Son TO REDEEM them that were under the Law” (Gal. iv. 4). The Sun was really amongst those very stars—*Al Gedi, the kid*, and *Deneb Al Gedi, the sacrifice cometh*—when this willing Sacrifice said, “Lo I come to do Thy will, O

God.” The nights were at their darkest and their longest when Jesus was born. The days began immediately to lengthen when He, “the true light,” had come into the world.⁴⁸

...

Its ancient origin reveals a prophetic knowledge, which only He possessed who knew that in “the fulness of time” He would send forth His Son.

We now come to the three constellations which give us three pictures setting forth the death of this Sacrifice and of His living again.”

- *Aquarius or the Water Bearer is the sign I will choose to illustrate this second “Book” of the heavenly witness. All of the stars of the three constellations making up this sign speak of water and the pouring out or overflowing of its blessedness in their names. It is quite remarkable.*

“The teaching, then, of the whole sign of Aquarius is clear and complete. The names of the stars explain the constellations, and the names of the constellations explain the sign, so that we are left in no doubt.

By His atoning death (as set forth in Capricornus) He has purchased and procured unspeakable blessings for His redeemed. This sign (Aquarius) tells of those blessings being poured forth, and of the speedy return of Him who is to bring ‘rivers of blessing,’ and to fill this earth with blessing and glory ‘as the waters cover the sea.’”

III. The Gospel in the Stars — The Message Concerning His Victory:

- *Third Book. The Redeemer. (His Second Coming) ... The Glory that Shall Follow*
 - *TAURUS. The prophecy of coming judgment.*
 - *GEMINI. The Redeemer's reign in glory.*
 - *CANCER. The Redeemer's position safe.*
 - *LEO. The prophecy of triumph fulfilled.*

Bullinger: “In this Third and Last Book we come to the concluding portion of this Heavenly Revelation. Its subject is Redemption

completed, and consummated in triumph. No more sorrow, suffering, or conflict; no more the bruising of the heel of the Redeemer. We have now done with the prophecies of “the sufferings of Christ,” and have come to those that relate to “the glory that should follow.”

No more reference now to His *first* coming in humiliation. No more coming “forth” to suffer and die, a sacrifice for sins; the reference now is only to His second coming in glory; His coming “unto” this earth is not to suffer for sin (Heb. ix. 28.), but it will be a coming in power to judge the earth in righteousness, and to subdue all enemies under His feet.

Like the other two books, it consists of four chapters.

The *first* chapter is the prophecy of the coming Judge of all the earth.

The *second* sets before us the two-fold nature of the coming Ruler.

The *third* shows us Messiah's redeemed possessions—the Redeemed brought safely home, all conflict over.

The *fourth* describes Messiah's consummated triumph.”

- *The first sign, that of Taurus, speaks of ruling over all as king! This is Messiah's full victory over satan, over sin, and over death.*

Bullinger: “The stars in Taurus present a brilliant sight. There are at least 141 stars, besides two important groups of stars, which both form integral parts of the sign.

The brightest star, α (in the bull's eye), has a Chaldee name—Al Debaran, and means the leader or governor.

The star β (at the tip of the the left horn) has an Arabic name—El Nath, meaning wounded or slain. Another prophetic intimation that this coming Lord should be first slain as a sacrifice.

Then there is the cluster of stars known as the *Pleiades*. This word, which means *the congregation of the judge or ruler*, comes to us through the Greek Septuagint as the translation of the Hebrew כִּימָה, *Chima*, which means *the heap or accumulation*, and occurs in Job ix. 9; xxxviii. 31, 32, and Amos v. 8.

It consists of a number of stars (in the neck of Taurus) which appear to be near together. The brightest of them, marked η in all the maps,⁵⁹ has come down to us with an Arabic name—*Al Cyone*, which means *the centre*, and has given the idea to some astronomers that it is the centre of the whole universe. The Syriac name for the Pleiades is *Succoth*, which means *booths*.

Another group of stars (on the face of the Bull) is known as *The Hyades*,⁶⁰ which has the similar meaning of *the congregated*.

...

Every thing points to the important truth, and all *turns* on the fact that the Lord is coming to rule! This is the central truth of all prophecy. "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." All hope for Creation, all hope for the world, all hope for Israel, all hope for the Church, turns on this, that "Jesus is coming again," and that when He comes His saints, "the daughters of the King" (like the Pleiades and Hyades), will be with Him."

- *The Last Sign: Leo (the Lion) Messiah's consummated triumph.*

- *The Constellation HYDRA. The old serpent destroyed.*

HYDRA. The Old Serpent. Hydra = he is abhorred. The brightest star is Cor Hydra = the heart of Hydra. Its ancient name is Al phard = the put away. Another is Al Drian = the abhorred. Another is Minchar al Sugia = the piercing of the deceiver."

- *Note that these are all prophetically about the culmination of God's victory against satan bringing the plan for his people Israel into fulfillment.*
- *Satan's greatest desire was to thoroughly corrupt the "message in the stars" that God had placed there through prophets (beginning with Abel and then Seth or perhaps Enoch as listed in Heb. 11) so many thousands of years before. The Lord had placed the stars so that the images and redemptive truths associated with them were recognizable to all — if one had the key, the prophetic key, and the names of them all with their distinctive meanings. Together they told in outline form — in the heavens — the story of redemption. And that message was about the Seed of the Woman coming into*

this world through a Virgin, Virgo, and culminating with Leo, the sign of God's choice representing the final destruction of the enemy of God and of all of us. In between these two were arrayed the Ten others filling in the complete redemptive story in outline form but with many details included.

- ***Of course satan's "alternative" message, perverted the Original Zodiac replacing the names and the message to match his own strategy for victory over God and his Christ, a message that would effectively cancel the entire plan of redemption. His warfare against the Lord and his saints continues today, for he is not bound yet. And before the end of his opposition, it will all be about the Counterfeit Seed of the Woman: Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots.***
- ***So it is all in outline form in the witness of the stars. And satan has been so active in destroying all the evidence. But he has failed!***

Much evidence remains of the original design of God's heavenly revelation to sinful man. More than a hundred stars still have names that speak truth, no matter the constant efforts of the evil one. Many stars have Hebrew names and even more have names in the Arabic language. It is interesting how the Arabs kept records about so very much of the truth and history of earlier times, isn't it?

Conclusion & Application:

- ***This brings us to the end of the story. The Lord God will complete his program of redemption and the plan for the ages will be final in the Lord's good timing.***

Praise the Lord of Glory and Grace that our eyes have been opened, our hearts softened, and the blindnesses removed, so that we may know of our high calling in Christ Jesus. Praise his name for his abundant grace. And thanks to him for his unspeakable gift and a sacrifice sufficient for all of our sins. May we be the lights and instruments always of his truth and saving power. TO GOD BE THE GLORY — GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE!